

REMARKS

Applicants request entry of the present amendments which conform the claims to U.S. practice. No new matter is being introduced by this Amendment as antecedent support is set forth in the original specification and in the original claims.

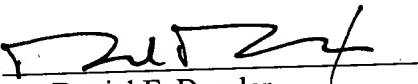
Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Attorneys at the below-listed telephone number regarding this Preliminary Amendment or otherwise regarding the present application.

If there are any charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,  
BENEDITO DA SILVA, ET AL.

CANTOR COLBURN LLP  
Applicants' Attorneys

By:   
Daniel F. Drexler  
Registration No. 47,535  
Customer No. 23413

Date: June 21, 2001  
Address: 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Telephone: 860-286-2929

09066793-100101